

Citizen Scientist: *Lost Ladybug Project*

Two training session options at Paynetown SRA...

Friday, June 13 at 7:00p (register by June 10)
or... Sunday, June 22 at 10:00a (register by June 20)



New volunteers welcome and encouraged!

This summer research project is all-ages friendly – consider volunteering with your children or grandchildren.

To register: Email jvance@dnr.IN.gov with your training date selection, name, phone, and # of people in your group – or call the Paynetown Activity Center at 812-837-9967.

Across North America ladybug species composition is changing. Over the past twenty years native ladybugs that were once very common have become extremely rare. During this same time ladybugs from other parts of the world have greatly increased both their numbers and range. This is happening very quickly and we don't know how, or why, or what impact it will have on ladybug diversity or the role that ladybugs play in keeping plant-feeding insect populations low. We're asking you to join us in finding out where all the ladybugs have gone so we can try to prevent more native species from becoming so rare.

Data collected by Citizen Scientist volunteers will serve two purposes. It will be submitted to entomologists at Cornell University to assist in their large-scale research project, and it will also be used to help build a local species inventory for Monroe Lake.

This 90-minute training session will cover... the basics of ladybug biology, where and how to look for ladybugs, how to photograph ladybugs for scientific purposes, how to record and submit data, and an intro to ladybug species identification.

Research period runs through the end of September. Trained volunteers are asked to commit a minimum of 4 hours to the project (in addition to the training session). Volunteers can set their own schedule, and/or participate in scheduled group research days.